

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 624**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Mitchell**

February 20, 2013

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An act to add Section 4019.1 to the Penal Code, relating to county jails.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 624, as introduced, Mitchell. County jail: rehabilitation credits.

Under existing law, when a prisoner is confined to county jail, an industrial farm, or a road camp, for each 4-day period in which he or she is confined, he or she may have one day deducted from his or her period of confinement, as specified.

This bill would authorize a sheriff, in addition to the credits otherwise earned, to award a prisoner program credit reductions from his or her term of confinement for successful completion of specific program performance objectives for rehabilitative programming, including academic programs, vocational programs, vocational training, substance abuse programs, and core programs such as anger management and social life skills. These program credit reductions may be for one to 6 weeks and may be forfeited in the same manner as other program credit reductions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Section 4019.1 is added to the Penal Code, to  
2     read:

1     4019.1. (a) (1) In addition to credit awarded pursuant to  
2     Section 4019, a sheriff may also award a prisoner program credit  
3     reductions from his or her term of confinement as provided in this  
4     section. A sheriff who elects to participate in this credit reduction  
5     program shall create guidelines that provide for credit reductions  
6     for inmates who successfully complete specific program  
7     performance objectives for approved rehabilitative programming,  
8     including, but not limited to, credit reduction of not less than one  
9     week to credit reduction of not more than six weeks for each  
10    performance milestone.

11    (2) Regulations promulgated pursuant to this subdivision shall  
12    specify the credit reductions applicable to distinct objectives in a  
13    schedule of graduated program performance objectives concluding  
14    with the successful completion of an in-custody rehabilitation  
15    program. Commencing upon the approval of those guidelines, the  
16    sheriff shall thereafter calculate and award credit reductions  
17    authorized by this section. A prisoner may not have his or her term  
18    of imprisonment reduced by more than six weeks for credits  
19    awarded pursuant to this section during any 12-month period of  
20    continuous confinement.

21    (b) Program credit is a privilege, not a right. Prisoners shall  
22    have a reasonable opportunity to participate in program credit  
23    qualifying assignments in a manner consistent with institutional  
24    security, available resources, and guidelines set forth by the sheriff.

25    (c) As used in this section, “approved rehabilitation  
26    programming” shall include, but is not limited to, academic  
27    programs, vocational programs, vocational training, substance  
28    abuse programs, and core programs such as anger management  
29    and social life skills.

30    (d) Credits awarded pursuant to this section may be forfeited  
31    pursuant to the provisions of Section 4019. Inmates shall not be  
32    eligible for program credits that result in an inmate being overdue  
33    for release.

34    (e) This section shall only apply to inmates sentenced to county  
35    jail pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170.